

Appl. No.: 10/821,105  
Amdt. Dated: 03/04/2008  
Off. Act. Dated: 11/13/2007

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended): A system for controlling network congestion, comprising: a device configured for communicating a sequence of packets over a network; wherein back-to-back packets are packets which are communicated one after another within the sequence of packets; and

means for explicitly indicating which packets within said sequence of packets are being sent back-to-back, and for setting congestion control parameters for a sender in response to estimating network bandwidth based on the receipt, by a receiver, of explicit back-to-back packet indications.

2. (currently amended): A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising means for estimating the number of back-to-back packets received ~~within a~~ by the receiver from ~~[[a]]~~ the sender and utilizing that information in conjunction with the explicit back-to-back packet ~~information~~ indications.

3. (currently amended): A system as recited in claim 2, wherein said estimating of back-to-back packets received from ~~[[a]]~~ the sender comprises determining the amount of data within acknowledgement packets (ACKs) and/or determining whether transmissions were sent back-to-back in response to examining packet timestamps.

4. (currently amended): A system as recited in claim 2, wherein said back-to-back estimates are utilized for checking the presence and validity of explicit back-to-back indications from ~~[[a]]~~ the sender.

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5. (currently amended): A system as recited in claim 2, wherein said back-to-back estimates are utilized when explicit back-to-back packet indications being received from ~~[[a]]~~ the sender are either not available or appear erroneous.

6. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said setting of congestion control parameters for a sender regulates packet transmissions by said sender in response to available bandwidth between said sender and the receiver.

7. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said network operates according to a transport control protocol (TCP).

8. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said explicit back-to-back packet indications comprise modulating the setting of at least one header bit indicating back-to-back status of packets being transmitted.

9. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said explicit back-to-back packet indications comprise modulating the setting of the maximum segment size (MSS) for indicating back-to-back status of packets being transmitted.

10. (currently amended): A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising means for the receiver to control packet train size ~~based~~ in response to bandwidth estimations by changing ~~[[the]]~~ a rate value *m* at which receipt acknowledgements (ACKs) are communicated from the receiver to said sender.

11. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said congestion control parameters comprise a slow start threshold.

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12. (original): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said congestion control parameters comprise a congestion window value.

13. (currently amended): A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said means ~~which for explicitly ~~indicates~~ indicating~~ back-to-back packets and ~~[[sets]]~~ setting congestion control parameters comprises:

a computer within said device;

programming within said computer for,

explicitly marking packets, in the sender, according to whether or not they are being sent back-to-back,

estimating bandwidth based on receiving packets from a sender which are marked with back-to-back packet indications,

determining congestion control parameters in response to said congestion estimating,

communicating said congestion control parameters to the sender.

14. (currently amended): A system for controlling network congestion, comprising:

a device configured for communicating over a network;

a processor within said device configured for controlling the sending and receiving of packets over said network; and

programming configured for executing on said processor for,

marking packets, in a sender, to explicitly indicate if they are sent back-to-back,

estimating network bandwidth in response to receipt of said explicit indications of back-to-back packets to generate network bandwidth estimates,

establishing congestion control parameters in response to said network bandwidth estimates.

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15. (original): A system as recited in claim 14, wherein said network communications are performed according to a transport control protocol (TCP).

16. (original): A system as recited in claim 14, wherein bits in the header are used for marking packets with explicit back-to-back packet sending indications.

17. (original): A system as recited in claim 16, wherein said header bits comprise unreserved bits according to the transport control protocol (TCP) standard.

18. (currently amended): A system as recited in claim 14, wherein maximum segment size (MSS) of said sender is modified for marking packets with explicit back-to-back packet sending indications.

19. (original): A system as recited in claim 18, wherein the size of packets being sent is modulated in response to whether or not the packets are sent back-to-back.

20. (original): A system as recited in claim 19, wherein said size of packets being sent is reduced from the maximum segment size (MSS) value according to a predetermined number of bits for indicating whether the packets are being sent back-to-back.

21. (original): A system as recited in claim 20, wherein said predetermined number of bits can be 1, 2 or 4 bits.

22. (original): A system as recited in claim 14, wherein said congestion control parameters comprise a slow start threshold.

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23. (original): A system as recited in claim 14, wherein said congestion control parameters comprise a congestion window value.

24. (currently amended): A system as recited in claim 14, further comprising programming for controlling the length of packet trains transmitted by ~~[[a]]~~ the sender in response to modifying the rate at which receipt acknowledgements (ACKs) are communicated from the receiver to ~~[[said]]~~ the sender.

25. (original): A system as recited in claim 14, wherein said marking of packets is performed for every packet sent or performed in response to congestion.

26. (original): A system for controlling network congestion, comprising:  
a device configured for communicating over a network;  
a processor within said device configured for controlling the sending and receiving of packets over said network; and  
programming configured for executing on said processor for,  
estimating network bandwidth in response to receipt of explicit indications of back-to-back packets or utilizing back-to-back packet estimations,  
controlling the length of packet trains transmitted by the sender in response to altering the rate at which receipt acknowledgements (ACKs) are communicated from the receiver to said sender as based on estimated network bandwidth.

27. (currently amended): A method of using bandwidth estimation to improve transport control protocol (TCP) congestion control within a packet based network, comprising:  
marking each packet, explicitly, that is being sent back-to-back, from a sender, to a receiver;

estimating bandwidth in response to receiving packets from other senders  
packets which are explicitly marked as back-to-back packets; and  
communicating congestion control parameters to ~~[[a]]~~ the sender in response to  
said bandwidth estimates.

28. (original): A method as recited in claim 27, further comprising:  
estimating the number of packets being received back-to-back; and  
utilizing said packet number estimates in conjunction with the explicit back-to-  
back packet indications when estimating bandwidth.

29. (original): A method as recited in claim 28, wherein said estimating of  
back-to-back packets received from a sender comprises estimating the amount of data  
in acknowledgement packets (ACKs) and/or estimating whether transmissions were  
sent back-to-back in response to examining a packet timestamp.

30. (original): A method as recited in claim 28, wherein said back-to-back  
estimates are utilized for checking the presence and validity of explicit back-to-back  
indications from a sender.

31. (original): A method as recited in claim 28, wherein said back-to-back  
estimates are utilized when explicit back-to-back packet indications being received from  
a sender are either not available or appear erroneous.

32. (original): A method as recited in claim 27, wherein said explicit back-to-  
back packet indications comprise modulating the setting of at least one header bit  
indicating back-to-back status of packets being transmitted.

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33. (original): A method as recited in claim 27, wherein said explicit back-to-back packet indications comprise changing the size of packets being sent from the maximum segment size (MSS) value for indicating whether or not packets are being sent back-to-back.

34. (currently amended): A method as recited in claim [[27]] 33, wherein said changing of the size of packets being sent is based on reducing the number of bits in a packet from the maximum segment size (MSS) by a predetermined number of bits.

35. (original): A method as recited in claim 34, wherein said predetermined number of bits can be 1, 2 or 4 bits.

36. (original): A method as recited in claim 27, further comprising controlling the length of packet trains transmitted by a sender in response to modifying the rate at which receipt acknowledgements (ACKs) are communicated from a receiver.

37. (currently amended): A method as recited in claim 36, wherein said modifying of the rate at which receipt acknowledgements (ACKs) are communicated comprises establishing a predetermined number of ~~packets~~ packet receptions before packet acknowledgement.

38. (original): A method as recited in claim 27, wherein said congestion control parameters comprise a slow start threshold.

39. (original): A method as recited in claim 27, wherein said congestion control parameters comprise a congestion window value.